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Remarks

Entry of the above-noted amendments, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all claims pending are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 4-7, 10-12, 15-16, 18-23, 25, 30-31, 33, and 42 are amended and claims 1-3, 5, 8-9, 13-14, 17, 32, and 41 are canceled. Per the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the cancellation of claim 5 has been revised for presentation of the claims in ascending numerical order. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims and thus, no new matter has been added. It is believed that the amendments made herein place the entire application in condition for allowance and/or better form for appeal. These amendments were not made earlier because the claims as previously submitted were believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants submit no new search is required since all the claim language was previously recited. Claims 4-7, 10-12, 15-16, 18-31, 33-40, and 42-44 are pending.

Request for Change of Attorney Docket Number:

Please change the attorney docket number as follows:

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Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 6-7, 12, 18, 23-24, 27-29, and 42-44 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge this indication of allowability. Applicants have rewritten claims 6-7, 12, 18, 23-24, 27-29, and 42-44 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any

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intervening claims, where the inclusion of all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims included:

Correction of the article "an" before "integer" in claim 6 presented herewith.

Amending claim 7 to depend from allowable claim 6.

Correction of the dependency from previous claim 9 to previous claim 11 incorporated in claim 12 presented herewith.

Amending claim 25 to depend from allowable claim 18.

An indication of allowance of claims 6-7, 12, 18, 23-25, 27-29, and 42-44 is therefore respectfully requested.

Also, dependent claims 4-5 and 10-11 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 6, dependent claims 15-16, 19-22, and 30-31 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 18, and dependent claim 33 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 42. Further, claim 26 depends from claim 25 and claims 34-40 have claim 33 as an intermediate base claim. An additional indication of allowance of claims 4-5, 10-11, 15-16, 19-22, 26, 30-31, and 33-40 is therefore respectfully requested.

For all the above reasons, the independent claims presented herewith are believed neither anticipated nor obvious over the art of the record. The dependent claims are believed allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own additional characterizations.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, a notice of allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 8, 2003

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